

the early and only manifestation of the neurotic temperament. Precocious and unusually clever children frequently fail to hold their own later on. With the advent of puberty, or even earlier, nervous disorders are most likely to show themselves. Sometimes fretful irritable temper is developed, and migraine or even epilepsy may appear. Masturbation or abnormal sexual conditions frequently begin at this time. The writer believes that the neurotic predisposition, like the tuberculous predisposition, may be entirely eradicated by a proper system of training. The diet of the neurasthenic child should be largely nitrogenous, but no overfeeding should be allowed. These children need to be taught self-restraint, control of the emotions and obedience with more firmness and insistence than is usually necessary with normal children. Mental application should be delayed until after the seventh or eighth year, and mental training generally not begun until the condition of physical health is firmly established.

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RESECTION OF THE CERVICAL SYMPATHETIC IN BASEDOW'S DISEASE. Belascu (Archiv. f. klin. Chirurgie, Apr., 1902).

The author sets out to determine to what extent the cervical sympathetic plays a rôle in the production of Basedow's disease. Each of the principal and subsidiary symptoms may be shown to have some connection with an irritation of the cervical sympathetic. Exophthalmos, one of the most prominent symptoms, is believed by most authors to be dependent upon a stimulation of the cervical sympathetic, leading to an energetic contraction of the muscular cone, known as Müller's smooth muscle, at the posterior pole of the bulb. If this be true, section of the sympathetic would prevent the exophthalmos, which it does in all cases. The enlargement of the thyroid depends on an enormous dilatation of the vessels of the latter, which in turn is dependent on a stimulation of the vasodilator fibers of the neck and chest. The activity of the vasoconstrictor fibers is inhibited and the dilatation of the arteries causes hypertrophy of the gland. The theory of Jonnesco is that the struma of Basedow's disease is dependent on the increased activity of the thyroid elements and hypersecretion of the gland, which are dependent in turn on the permanent stimulation of the secretory fibers of the thyroid. Whichever of these theories is correct the resection of the cervical sympathetic causing section of the vasodilator, vasoconstrictor and secretory fibers, results in atrophy of the goiter. This in fact occurs in every case. Tachycardia is likewise to be attributed to irritation of the cervical sympathetic. The accessory symptoms seem to be dependent on changes in the circulation of the brain brought about by stimulation of the cervical sympathetic. These symptoms, consisting of tremor, sensations of heat, sweats, gastro-intestinal disturbances, and the nervous excitability so frequently seen in this disease, are, according to Jonnesco, dependent on a permanent cerebral anemia produced by a continuous stimulation of the vasoconstrictor fibers of the cervical sympathetic going to the brain. Extirpation of these fibers leads to cerebral congestion. The various operations on the cervical sympathetic for the relief of exophthalmic goiter are the following: (1) Simple division of the cervical sympathetic; (2) ablation of the cervical sympathetic by means of Jaboulay's operation, which, without a large incision, is devised to stretch and twist the nerve by means of artery forceps attached to its upper and lower ends; (3) simple stretching of the cervical sympathetic; (4) partial resection of the latter; (5) partial and extensive resection; and (6) total resection. Considering the results of the large number of operative procedures for the cure of primary Basedow's disease, the author concludes that total and bilateral resection of the cervical

sympathetic, which is known as Jonnesco's operation, is the most effective. The mere stretching and even the simple division of the nerve do not destroy all the connections of the sympathetic with the thyroid. The partial and extensive resection is applicable in only those cases in which the tachycardia is not pronounced. Although the direct surgical treatment of simple goiter by means of the almost total resection of the thyroid gland is not in itself a dangerous operation, in the struma of Basedow's disease it is very serious and is accompanied by many disadvantages.

JELLIFFE.

A SCHEME FOR THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF INSANE PATIENTS WITH THE RESULTS OF ITS APPLICATION TO CONTROL PATIENTS. E. Goodall (Br. Med. Jour., Oct. 26, 1901).

The author says that the best work has been done in the United States and Italy. The full application of his scheme to ruly patients occupies from three to four hours. He calls special attention to the fact that there can be no intelligible or useful statistics created without a normal standard to judge them by, and this must be gathered from measurements made on normals born and bred in the locality from which the insane come. The main objects of comparing the normal and abnormal standards are as follows: (1) To ascertain what conditions constitute deviations from the normal; this is not yet known. (2) Which of these are most common in the insane. (3) Whether they are grouped about the head and face. (4) Whether there exist stigmata by which the gravity of a case can be measured. (5) Whether there is a correlation of any value between certain stigmata and definite mental disorders. (6) The relation of inheritance to mental disorders. (7) Relation of stigmata to prognosis.

JELLIFFE.

BASEDOW'S DISEASE. C. L. DANA (N. Y. Med. Jour., June 14, 1902).

This author believes that the primary disturbance of Basedow's disease is in the cerebral centers, especially those which control the nutrition of the thyroid and regulate the circulation. In cases where the disease exists there is an almost uniform evidence of neuropathic personal and family history, showing that these centers are constitutionally weak and this weakness is increased by emotional strain and infection. Fevers, sepsis, operation procedures and pregnancy are often followed by this disease, exophthalmic goiter more often following typhoid than the other infectious fevers. The author reports two autopsies after a rather acute course where pathological changes were found in the nerve-cells of the pons and medulla, which leads him to believe that in well-marked cases these changes in the nuclei of the pneumogastric and other nerves are constant and important lesions.

W. B. NOYES.

STUDIES ON NEUROGLIA. G. CARL HUBER (Amer. Jour. Anat., Vol. 1, No. 1).

From studies of the neuroglia of the dog, the cat, the rabbit, the dove, the tortoise and the frog this author concludes that the neuroglia of the spinal cords of these animals is made up of the neuroglia cells and fibers, the protoplasm of the fibers differing chemically from that of the cells, although in all the animals studied this difference was not equally marked. The fibers may be regarded as intercellular in structure, bearing no constant relation to the great majority of cell nuclei or neuroglia cells observed. Using Benda's method, the author has demonstrated that there are some neuroglia cells, usually possessing protoplas-